

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A transmission belt comprising:

a contact face contacting with a pulley ~~so that~~ when said transmission belt is wound around said pulley, and

a piece of foreign matter embedded near said contact face and at a distance from said contact face in said transmission belt;

such that upon said contact face being worn by said pulley when said transmission belt rotates around said pulley, ~~so that~~ then said foreign matter is exposed at said contact face so as to warn of a decrease in the transmission power of said transmission belt on said pulley,

wherein said foreign matter contacting said pulley makes a warning sound to warn of a decrease in the transmission power.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) A transmission belt according to claim 1, wherein said foreign matter is softer than said pulley.

4. (Currently Amended) A transmission belt according to claim 1, wherein said piece of foreign matter has a longitudinal direction and said [[a]] longitudinal direction of said foreign matter is substantially in the direction perpendicular to said contact face.

5. (Currently Amended) A transmission belt according to claim 4, wherein said piece of foreign matter has a cross section of variable width of said such that the width of said foreign matter becomes is narrower as for portions of said foreign matter approaches closer to said contact face and wider for portions of said foreign matter farther from said contact surface.

6. (Currently Amended) A transmission belt according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of pieces of said foreign matter are embedded in said transmission belt, each said piece

having a longitudinal direction and a top, and said longitudinal direction substantially in the direction perpendicular to said contact face and with said top closest to said contact face; and

a distance between said contact face and the top of at least one piece of said foreign matter being different from a distance between said contact face and the top of another piece ~~other pieces~~ of said foreign matter.

7. (Currently Amended) A transmission belt according to claim 1, wherein said piece of foreign matter is given a color, which is different from a color of other parts of said transmission belt.

8. (Currently Amended) A transmission belt according to claim 1, wherein said piece of foreign matter contacts said pulley whereby a warning sound having a specific frequency is generated.

9. (Currently Amended) A transmission belt wound around a pulley, comprising:

a belt body, which is made of a predetermined material, having a certain thickness between a first surface of said belt body and a second surface of said belt body; and

a piece of foreign matter, which is made of a different material from said predetermined material, embedded in said belt body at a distance from said first surface;

[[a]] the distance from said foreign matter to [[a]] the first surface of said belt body in the thickness direction being shorter than [[a]] the distance from said foreign matter to [[a]] the second surface of said belt body in the thickness direction,

wherein when said first surface is worn by said pulley so that said foreign matter is exposed at said first surface, ~~whereby~~ then said foreign matter contacting said pulley makes a sound when said transmission belt rotates around said pulley.

10. (Currently Amended) An indication apparatus for indicating the end of life of a transmission belt, comprising:

a pulley;[[,]]
a transmission belt that is wound around said pulley having;
a contact face contacting said pulley ~~so that~~ when said transmission belt is wound around said pulley;[[,]] and
a piece of foreign matter embedded near said contact face and at a distance from said contact face in said transmission belt;
such that upon said contact face being worn by said pulley when said transmission belt rotates around said pulley, ~~so that~~ then said foreign matter is exposed at said contact face whereby said foreign matter contacting said pulley makes a specific sound;[[,]]
a sound sensor, which detects said specific sound, set up near where said transmission belt contacts said pulley; and
a warning apparatus which sends out a warning according to said specific sound detected by said sound sensor.

11. (Original) An indication apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said foreign matter contacting said pulley at a predetermined cycle makes a specific sound appear at said predetermined cycle when said transmission belt rotates at a predetermined speed.

12. (Original) An indication apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said warning apparatus sends out a warning when said specific sound appears at said predetermined cycle.

13. (Currently amended) A transmission belt comprising:

a contact face contacting with a pulley ~~so that~~ when said transmission belt is wound around said pulley, and
a piece of foreign matter embedded near said contact face and at a distance from said contact face in said transmission belt;
such that upon said contact face being worn by said pulley when said transmission belt rotates around said pulley, ~~so that~~ then said foreign matter is exposed

at said contact face so as to warn of a decrease in the transmission power of said transmission belt on said pulley,

wherein said piece of foreign matter has a longitudinal direction and a cross section of variable width, and said longitudinal direction of said foreign matter is substantially in a direction perpendicular to said contact face, [[a]] and said width of said foreign matter becoming is narrower [[as]] for portions of said foreign matter approaches closer to said contact face.

14. (Currently amended) A transmission belt comprising:

a belt body, which is made of a predetermined material, having a certain thickness between a first surface of said belt body and a second surface of said belt body;[[,]] and

a piece of foreign matter, which is made of a different material from said predetermined material, embedded in said belt body at a distance from said first surface;

[[a]] the distance from said foreign matter to [[a]] the first surface of said belt body in the thickness direction being shorter than [[a]] the distance from said foreign matter to [[a]] the second surface of said belt body in the thickness direction,

wherein said piece of foreign matter has a longitudinal direction and a cross section of variable width, and said longitudinal direction of said foreign matter is substantially in a direction perpendicular to said first surface, [[a]] and said width of said foreign matter becoming is narrower [[as]] for portions of said foreign matter approaches closer to said first surface.